

REMARKS

The official action of 23 July 2009 has been carefully considered and reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 has been amended with the incorporation of the recitations formerly in claims 2 and 4 (now canceled). Claim 6 has been amended with the incorporation of the recitations formerly in claims 7 and 9 (now canceled). Claims 18-20 and 31-33 have been amended to recite active method steps and thereby to remove the bases for the rejections under 35 USC 101 and 35 USC 112, second paragraph. All claims as amended are respectfully believed to be sufficiently definite to satisfy the dictates of 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1-8 and 12-16 were rejected under 35 USC 102(a) as allegedly being anticipated by JP 2005-120310. Applicants respectfully note that this reference has a publication date of May 2005, i.e. after the filing dates of each of Applicants' priority applications. Applicants submit herewith English translations of two (2) of their priority applications to overcome the reference on the basis of their earlier priority dates (see MPEP 201.15), and note that these priority applications provide 35 USC 112, support for the subject matter now claimed.

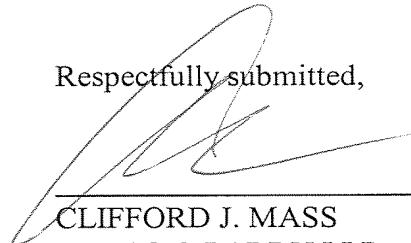
Claims 1-3, 6-8 and 12-33 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by WO 2004/039900. Applicants respectfully note that this rejection was

not applied against the subject matter of claims 4 and 9, which subject matter has now been incorporated into the independent claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to the claims remove the basis for the rejection.

Claims 9-11 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over WO 2004/039900 in view of JP 2005-120310. Applicants respectfully note that the claimed invention antedates the '310 reference on the basis of Applicants' earlier priority dates (see discussion above) such that the rejection should be withdrawn for this reason alone. Moreover, Applicants also respectfully note that the primary reference teaches away from the claimed L* value. See US 2005/0041082 at paragraph [0007] ("the problem in that there is a particular decrease in coloration of dark areas (where the L* value defined in the CIE Lab color space on the recording medium is around 40)"). Accordingly, there would be no motivation or reason to modify the primary reference to arrive at a magenta ink composition with the claimed L* value (60 or less) in any event.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that all rejections of record have been overcome and that the application is now in allowable form. An early notice of allowance is earnestly solicited and is believed to be fully warranted.

Respectfully submitted,



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